

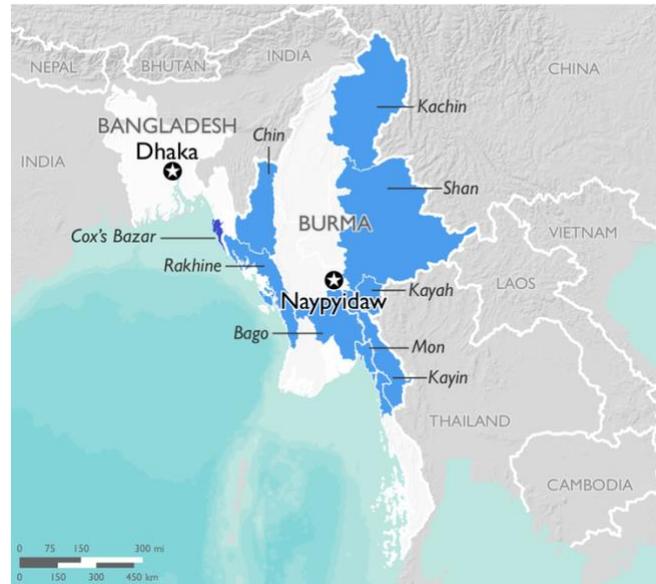
Burma and Bangladesh – Regional Crisis Response

AUGUST 12, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

3 MILLION People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Burma <i>UN – July 2021</i>	191,100 People Who Remain Displaced by Insecurity Since February in Burma <i>UNHCR – August 2021</i>	126,000 IDPs—Originally Displaced in 2012—in Burma’s Rakhine IDP Sites <i>UN – June 2021</i>	1.4 MILLION People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar <i>UN – May 2021</i>	889,704 Refugees in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar <i>UNHCR – June 2021</i>
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- Insecurity and violence across Burma continue to drive displacement and compound humanitarian needs. The UN estimates 3 million people require humanitarian assistance in Burma as of July.
- U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield announces an additional \$50 million in humanitarian funding for Burma.
- Bangladesh launches a COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Cox’s Bazar District, and the USG donates 5.5 million vaccines to the country in response to a surge in COVID-19 cases.
- Monsoon flooding in late July and early August affects more than 48,000 people in Burma and 71,000 people in Bangladesh.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Burma and Bangladesh Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$124,674,734
	State/PRM ²	\$117,785,888
Total		\$242,460,662

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Humanitarian Needs in Burma Increase Threefold Amid Clashes, Resultant Displacement, and COVID-19 Surge

Ongoing clashes between Burma's military, ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), and Peoples' Defense Forces in Burma since the February 1 coup d'état continue to drive displacement and generate humanitarian needs throughout the country. Fighting and resultant displacement, as well as a surge in coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, have increased humanitarian needs threefold in recent months. The UN estimates that 3 million people in Burma require humanitarian assistance as of July, representing a threefold increase compared with the 1 million people identified as requiring assistance in January. In southeastern Burma, an estimated 154,800 people remain displaced as of mid-August due to armed clashes, insecurity, and violence since May, including approximately 106,300 people in Kayah State and several townships in neighboring southern Shan State. Additionally, clashes and insecurity in Shan have displaced an estimated 24,800 people across northern and southern parts of the state in 2021. While a majority of those displaced in Shan have returned to areas of origin, approximately 7,000 remained displaced as of July 30. Meanwhile, clashes in northwestern Burma's Chin State continued in and around Mindat Township throughout July, and more than 18,100 people remained displaced from Chin in the state or neighboring Magway and Sagaing regions as of mid-July.

New confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths have surged in Burma in recent months, with the number of weekly confirmed cases increasing from approximately 1,290 to 40,000 cases between the weeks of June 7 and July 19, representing a more than thirtyfold increase, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Additionally, weekly recorded COVID-19-related deaths increased from 19 during the week of June 7 to 2,620 associated deaths during the week of July 26. While the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths have since decreased, disease incidence is likely underrepresented due to a lack of reporting, limited testing, and restricted access to health care services, according to relief actors. The rise in COVID-19 cases is placing additional pressure on Burma's public health system, already strained by ongoing fighting and instability, including 260 recorded attacks on health care facilities since early February, WHO reports. As of late July, nearly one-third of Burma's 330 townships had COVID-19-related movement restrictions in place. In addition, military authorities have extended a nationwide school closure through at least August 15 to limit transmission of the virus.

In response to increased humanitarian needs, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced \$50 million in new humanitarian funding for the people of Burma on August 10. This new U.S. Government (USG) funding will directly support international and national non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and UN agencies to provide emergency assistance—including food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support—to at least 700,000 vulnerable people from Burma, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Bangladesh Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign in Cox's Bazar, and USG Delivers 5.5 Million Vaccine Doses Amid Increase in COVID-19 Cases

In late June, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) approved the provision of COVID-19 vaccines for a first group of approximately 47,200 refugees—those ages 55 years and older—in the Cox's Bazar District refugee camps, and on August 10, health actors began administering these vaccines as part of a vaccination campaign specifically for refugees living in Cox's Bazar, according to the UN. The administration of these vaccines is part of the GoB's countrywide vaccination effort; health authorities in Bangladesh had administered an estimated 13.8 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the country as

of August 9, according to WHO. To assist with vaccination efforts amid a rise in cases countrywide, the USG provided 5.5 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Bangladesh in July. Humanitarian actors continue to advocate to the GoB for equitable access to the vaccine, especially for Rohingya refugees.

The start of the administration of vaccines for refugees follows a significant increase in new COVID-19 cases and related deaths throughout Bangladesh—including in the refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar—in June and July, in part due to the increasing prevalence of the highly infectious Delta variant, according to WHO. Weekly confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country rose from approximately 15,900 to 99,700 cases from the weeks of June 7 to July 26, while weekly COVID-19-related deaths increased from 279 to 1,642 deaths during the same period. In response to the surge in cases, the GoB has enacted nationwide movement restrictions in recent months, including significant limitations on humanitarian activities in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps. As of early August, the restrictions continued to allow for the implementation of only some humanitarian interventions in the camps, including health and nutrition services, food transportation and distribution, and liquefied petroleum gas services.

Monsoon Flooding Adversely Affects Thousands of People in Burma and Bangladesh

Rainfall and resultant flooding and landslides across Burma and Bangladesh adversely affected tens of thousands of people, prompted displacement, and resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries from late July to early August, relief actors report. In Burma, rainfall and related severe weather events in areas of Rakhine State and southeastern Burma—including Bago and Tanintharyi regions and Kayin and Mon states—since July 21 had affected an estimated 48,500 people, displaced approximately 22,700 individuals, and resulted in at least two deaths as of late July. In response, USG partners are conducting needs assessments to inform flood response efforts and had prepositioned critical relief items in affected areas prior to the severe weather events.

In Bangladesh, rainfall and subsequent flooding and landslides occurred across the country in late July and early August, including in Cox’s Bazar, where severe weather events had affected approximately 71,000 people and resulted in at least 28 deaths, the displacement of at least 24,900 people, and damage to or the destruction of more than 6,300 shelters as of August 5. Road access blockages due to flooding and landslides, as well as limitations on humanitarian access to the camps due to COVID-19-related restrictions, have hindered relief actors’ ability to provide assistance to those in need. COVID-19-related access restrictions had also reduced the ability of humanitarian organizations to complete routine site maintenance and disaster risk reduction work in the camps throughout the year, heightening vulnerability to adverse effects from the flooding. Despite ongoing access constraints, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) and partners provided high-energy biscuits to nearly 6,300 flood-affected refugee households and delivered more than 137,000 hot meals in 31 refugee camps between July 27 and August 7. Additionally, USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) deployed a network of emergency response teams to provide immediate support to affected families, and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) initiated shelter repair and helped temporarily relocate an estimated 5,000 Rohingya refugees to other facilities and shelters.

KEY FIGURES



1.2 Million

People supported through FY 2020 BHA emergency food assistance



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USG partners implementing stand-alone protection interventions



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USG partners implementing critical shelter and settlements programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA continues to support WFP to provide cash transfers and vouchers for food and locally, regionally, and internationally procured in-kind food assistance to populations in Burma and Bangladesh. Through WFP, USAID/BHA-supported food assistance reached more than 1.2 million people in FY 2020 including approximately 399,000 vulnerable individuals in Burma and more than 871,000 Rohingya refugees and host community members in Cox's Bazar. USAID/BHA also supports coordination and capacity-building activities among food security agencies in the two countries to strengthen response efforts. Additionally, USAID/BHA assistance to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and two NGO partners supports nutrition assistance in Burma, while State/PRM assistance to IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners and USG assistance to UNICEF support the delivery of complementary livelihoods and nutrition services to vulnerable individuals in Bangladesh.

PROTECTION

The USG supports thirteen partners to address protection concerns among violence-affected and displaced populations in Burma's Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine, and Shan states; host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; and Rohingya refugees across Southeast Asia. USG-supported protection activities in Burma and Bangladesh aim to provide and increase access to protection services, including gender-based violence prevention services and case management, child-friendly spaces, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, and legal assistance. USG partners also work with the broader humanitarian community in Burma to advocate for access to life-saving humanitarian assistance and to promote the delivery of protection services in areas with significant humanitarian access constraints.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA works with partners in Bangladesh to support newly displaced persons, improve living conditions, and strengthen resilience to the impact of cyclones and other natural disasters by conducting disaster risk reduction activities in host communities and refugee camps in Cox's Bazar District. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners in Burma construct and repair durable shelters and distribute essential household items for vulnerable IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. State/PRM-supported shelter assistance includes emergency shelter repairs and distribution of shelter materials, such as plastic sheeting to prevent roof leaks, complemented by site coordination and site management capacity-building activities. USG partners are also providing cash assistance for host community members and refugees to purchase local shelter materials.



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USG partners
implementing critical
WASH programming

WASH

The USG supports WASH programming in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District and across Burma to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, prevent communicable disease outbreaks, and mitigate the risk of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—in vulnerable children and mothers. With State/PRM funding, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, Terre des Hommes, UNHCR, and UNICEF are addressing critical WASH needs by installing handwashing stations and latrines, improving drainage and waste removal systems, providing safe drinking water and hygiene supplies, and strengthening community awareness of proper WASH practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. Between January 1 and June 30, USG partner UNICEF provided more than 171,500 people in Cox's Bazar with access to safe drinking water and an estimated 101,800 people with functional latrines.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- On February 1, 2021, Burma's military staged a coup d'état against Burma's civilian government during which soldiers detained senior civilian government officials, including State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, and announced a one-year state of emergency. As of August 2021, Burma's military had extended the initial one-year state of emergency to August 2023. Since February, clashes between Burma's military forces, EAOs, and other local non-state armed groups across Burma have escalated, resulting in increased displacement and humanitarian needs, particularly in southeastern Burma, as well as in Chin, Kachin, and Shan. Coup-related instability has also resulted in access challenges, restricted banking operations, and limited cash availability, making the provision of humanitarian assistance more difficult for relief actors.
- Burma's military forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations in Rakhine's Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships following Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacks on northern Rakhine checkpoints and police posts in October 2016 and August 2017 that have since been characterized by the international community as ethnic cleansing. Nearly 890,000 people had fled Burma into neighboring Bangladesh and taken shelter in Cox's Bazar's 34 refugee camps as of June 2021, while other refugees are sheltering in host communities, UNHCR reports. Refugee populations largely rely on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, including food, shelter, and WASH services. The Government of Bangladesh limits refugees' access to basic education services, capacity to engage in income-earning activities, and freedom of movement. Refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar are also vulnerable to natural hazards, such as cyclones and flooding.
- As of January 2021, an estimated 600,000 ethnic Rohingya—a minority group not recognized by Burma's military forces and denied rights to citizenship, freedom of movement, and public services—remained in Rakhine. Many IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya, including approximately 126,000 people affected by clashes in 2012 who remained displaced as of May 2021. In addition, approximately 91,000 civilians, mostly ethnic Rakhine, remained displaced in Rakhine and Chin states as of mid-June due to clashes between the Arakan Army and Burma's military forces that erupted in 2018. Displaced populations, as well as other vulnerable individuals, continue to lack access to basic services and livelihood opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions.
- On January 8, 2021, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Gwendolyn J. Cardno re-issued a disaster declaration for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA–BANGLADESH RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN BURMA FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Health; WASH	Chin, Kayin	\$1,500,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Protection	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$1,200,000
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Rakhine	\$1,600,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan	\$3,600,000
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), MPCA, WASH	Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan	\$1,595,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	ERMS, HCIMA, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements	Bago, Chin, Kayah Kayin, Mon, Rakhine	\$2,400,000
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Rakhine, Shan	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$4,179,734
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$18,000,000
	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan	\$11,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BURMA			\$49,674,734
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Burma	\$8,400,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Burma	\$2,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BURMA			\$10,700,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BURMA			\$60,374,734
FUNDING IN BANGLADESH FOR THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE			
WFP	DRRPP, ERMS, Food Assistance–Vouchers, HCIMA, Nutrition	Cox's Bazar	\$75,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$75,000,000
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Cox's Bazar	\$1,700,000
IFRC	DRRPP, ERMS, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$10,000,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$1,750,000
	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), DRRPP, ERMS, Health, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$18,250,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$400,000

	Health, Protection	Cox's Bazar	\$2,200,000
UNHCR	CCCM, HCIMA, Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$13,400,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$3,980,000
	Education, HCIMA, Monitoring and Evaluation, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Cox's Bazar	\$11,860,000
WHO	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Cox's Bazar	\$2,800,000
	Health, HCIMA, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Cox's Bazar	\$700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$67,040,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING IN BANGLADESH			\$142,040,000
REGIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE²			
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Indonesia	\$412,500
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$500,000
IRC	Humanitarian Assistance - COVID-19 Response	Thailand	\$623,357
	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$17,201,252
IRC - The Border Consortium	Food, Nutrition	Thailand	\$19,668,779
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Regional	\$1,300,000
UNICEF	Humanitarian Assistance - Multi-Sector	Thailand	\$340,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM REGIONAL FUNDING			\$40,045,888
TOTAL USG REGIONAL FUNDING			\$40,045,888
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021			\$124,674,734
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR BURMA AND BANGLADESH IN FY 2021²			\$117,785,888
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA AND BANGLADESH REGIONAL CRISIS IN FY 2021³			\$242,460,622

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding includes funding for both refugees from Burma and asylum-seekers in the region, as well as IDPs inside Burma. Funding does not include USAID/BHA support for activities in Bangladesh that are not related to the Rohingya refugee response.

² Figures include supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA), Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA), and American Rescue Plan Act—Migration and Refugee Assistance (ARPA-MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response as of May 18, 2021.

³ Funding for populations in Burma and Bangladesh affected by the violence in Rakhine State totals more than \$1.3 billion—including more than \$1.1 billion in Bangladesh and more than \$238 million in Burma—since the outbreak of violence in August 2017. This includes nearly \$713 million in State/PRM funding and more than \$633 million in USAID/BHA funding for populations affected by the violence in Rakhine State and other vulnerable populations. USG funding represents publicly announced funding as of August 12, 2021.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)